

The Intelligencer.

Office: Nos. 25 and 27 Fourteenth Street.

FIFTY CENTS is the proper opening price for wool in the estimation of the farmers of Greene county, Pa.

The Greenback State ticket in Indiana is made up of six former Republicans and three former Democrats.

The Top Mill, Riverside, Belmont and Ohio City mills will start this morning, all of them having signed the muck rollers' scale.

The Braxton county Republicans have taken a new departure in local politics, according to their resolutions published in another column of to-day's paper.

Ten Ohio Democrats will hold a State Convention to-day at Columbus. Thursday has the lead, but it is quite possible that an unopposed delegation will be sent to Cincinnati.

The bar iron card was reduced to two and a half cents per pound yesterday at the Pittsburgh meeting. This reduction carries with it a decline in the scale for boiling, heating and muck-rolling. Boiling here will be \$5.25 per ton; heating, 70 cents, and muck-rolling 62 1/2.

YESTERDAY'S Cincinnati Gazette contains the address of the Bishops of the M. E. Church in regard to the present status of the deaconate. It shows that they have 11,636 traveling preachers, 12,478 local preachers, and 1,700,302 members and probationers. The increase in membership since the last Conference has been 119,745.

The Jubilee Singers who are to appear in Wheeling on Friday and Saturday nights are not show people, in the ordinary sense of a traveling troupe, but something higher than that. They have to a certain extent been benefactors of their race by the good they have done in the way of educating their fellow creatures in Tennessee. They have traveled extensively in Europe and America, and are highly cultivated singers.

The Democratic contest in this district for the Congressional nomination goes heavily on. We hear that Sheriff Tingle has taken the lead, and will carry the vote into Africa—that is, into Harrison county—the very citadel of Col. Ben's "fourth term" strength. Col. Aleck Campbell was in the city yesterday, on his return from the interior. He is confident that a change is impending. Col. Ben's forces are down in every direction, and a spirit of opposition is running loose through the district.

Religious Tests in Politics. It was reported at one time that President Hayes had made up his mind to appoint Robt. Ingersoll to the German mission, then, that under the pressure brought to bear on him by a number of clergymen he had given up the idea. This report has never been verified. Ingersoll himself has never alluded to it in his lectures, and it is now generally discredited by the press. While most people would have thought it the natural, if not the proper, thing to do, yet a very large and influential class would have said that it smacked of intolerance—indeed of persecution for opinion's sake. It is well known that Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin held opinions as objectionable as those of Ingersoll, (although, unlike him, they did not dissent in the face of the world,) and yet both filled foreign missions, and Mr. Jefferson, when President, sent a national vessel to bring Tom Paine to America from France.

In our national politics we have no oath of office that applies a religious test of any sort. We swear in alike the orthodox and heterodox as law makers and rulers. In England, however, it is altogether different. There they have an oath that presumes some sort of religious belief. A member of Parliament must believe in a God—at least he must pretend to. No doubt men have been sworn in who were of doubtful orthodoxy, even on so broad a platform as Deism. Oaths are said to catch the consciences, the very people who do not need to swear in order to bind their acts, and to let in the unscrupulous. In this view of them it seemed strange to see Bradlaugh, the Radical, decline to take the oath as a member of Parliament, because it required him to acknowledge the existence of a God. He is well known as an Atheist, and his theological opinions were well known when he was elected. The question is whether the oath will be so modified that he can take his seat. The House of Commons is liberal in this respect as compared with the Peers. The Scotch Peers, when they came to choose 16 of their number to represent the peerage of Scotland in the House of Lords, thereon out the Marquis of Queensbury for recently publishing a compendious coronation of disbelief, in which current religious doctrine and the doctrine of a personal God were alike denied.

Technically, as the fact of union requires, the 16 Scotch peers who sit in the House of Lords are re-elected by their noble brethren at each general election, but by long usage vacancies only are filled as they occur, and a peer once elected holds over from Parliament to Parliament. The Scotch press and the Scotch public, however, have been calling on their peers to throw out the Marquis for his bold infidelity, and the Conservative Assembly which met at Holyrood (nothing could well be more conservative in matters religious than an assembly of the peers of Scotland) was against him. He cited precedent, he begged his fellow peers not to yield to popular clamor, and when he had been snubbed by the Lord Register presiding and the assembly was plainly against him, he said at the close with much eloquence:

My lords, I am at a loss to understand how my profession of faith can be construed into a demonstration of unfitness for holding a seat in the House of Lords as a representative of the nobility of this great country. That any human creature,

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